

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF CAMERON §  
TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: February 14, 2017  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor  
Michael Carter, Councilmember Place 1  
Wanda Reyes, Councilmember Place 2  
Frank Davalos, Jr., Councilmember Place 3  
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6  
  
Rolando Vela, City Manager  
Ricardo Morado, City Attorney  
Tony David, Police Chief  
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leti Keplinger, Mayor ProTem  
Gary Meschi, Councilmember Place 5

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Worrell, Citizen  
Janie Petty, Citizen  
Martha McClain, Citizen  
David Lohse, Citizen

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Call to Order**  
Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Council Member Reyes.
- 3. Roll Call/Excused Absences – Council Members Keplinger and Meschi were absent.**  
**Mayor Houston made a motion to excuse Council Members Keplinger and Meschi from the February 14, 2017 Council meeting, Council Member Carter seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**
- 4. OPEN FORUM:**

David Lohse addressed the Council, suggesting that a committee or board be set up between the Laguna Vista Recreational Association (LVRA) and the Town Council to review the lease agreement. He stated that the workshop with the LVRA should be set before the May 2017 election.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2017 Audit Committee Meeting. (City Secretary)
- b) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2017 Town Council Regular Meeting. (City Secretary)
- c) **MINUTES** – Consideration and action to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2017 Town Council Special Meeting. (City Secretary)
- d) **RACIAL PROFILE REPORT** – Consideration and action to accept the Laguna Vista Police Department 2016 Racial Profile Report. (Police Chief)

**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows; (a) approval of the minutes from the January 10, 2017 Audit Committee Meeting, (b) approval of the minutes from the January 10, 2017 regular Council meeting, (c) approval of the minutes from the February 2, 2017 special Council meeting, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**6. NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action on each of the following items:

- A. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-01** – Second Reading – Consideration and action to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2017-01 adopting an anti-litter ordinance. (City Manager)

**Council Member Reyes made a motion to approve the second reading to adopt Ordinance Number 2017-01 adopting an anti-litter ordinance, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

- B. **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-04** – First Reading – To consider the first reading of Ordinance Number 2017-04 providing for animal control in the Town of Laguna Vista and repealing Ordinance Number 2012-16. (City Manager)  
**No action was taken on the first reading of Ordinance 2017-04.**

**C. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-05** – To approve Resolution Number 2017-05 requesting the State of Texas to remove the old Queen Isabella Causeway structure. (Mayor Houston)

**Mayor Houston made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2017-05 requesting the State of Texas to remove the old Queen Isabella Causeway structure, Council Member Reyes seconded the motion. Council Members Davalos and Smith opposed motion. All others voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**D. L.V.R.A** – To schedule a workshop with the Laguna Vista Recreational Association (LVRA) Board to discuss the proposed marina lease. (Mayor Houston)

**Mayor Houston made a motion to authorize the City Manager to meet with the LVRA President and come up with 2-3 possible workshop dates for the Council and the LVRA Board to meet, and bring the dates to the Council for selection at the March 2017 meeting, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**E. MARCH 2017 MEETING** – To reschedule the March Town Council meeting. (Mayor Houston)

**Council Member Smith made a motion to reschedule the Marth 2017 Town Council meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, Council Member Reyes seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**F. HOME RULE CHARTER AMENDMENT** – To authorize the Town Staff to prepare a proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter to be placed on the May 2017 ballot for the following items: (Mayor Houston)

i. Dictating the use of the Town’s “park/marina” property;  
**Council Member Smith made a motion to table items F(i), concerning the addition to the Home Rule Charter of dictating the use of the Town’s “park/marina” property, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

ii. Changing the election of elected officials from 51% of votes to 50% plus one;  
**Mayor Houston made a motion to authorize Town Staff to prepare a proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter, Section 6.03, the election of elected officials from 51% of votes to 50% plus one or plurality, Council member Davalos seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

iii. Requiring that the Municipal Judge be a licensed attorney.  
**Council Member Davalos made a motion to authorize Town Staff to prepare a proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter, Section 4.05 requiring that the Municipal Judge be a licensed attorney, Council**

**Member Reyes seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**G. RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER** – To accept the resignation of Council Member Leti Keplinger. (City Manager)  
**Council Member Smith made a motion to regretfully accept the resignation of Council Member Leti Keplinger, Council Member Reyes regretfully seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**H. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-06** – To approve Resolution Number 2017-06 to order the General Election for May 6, 2017. (City Secretary)  
**Council Member Davalos made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2017-06 to order the General Election for May 6, 2017, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**I. RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-07** - To approve Resolution Number 2017-07 to order a Special Election for May 6, 2017. (City Secretary)  
**Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2017-07 to order a Special Election for May 6, 2017 to fill the unexpired term for Place 4, Council Member Reyes seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**J. NOTICE OF ELECTION** – Approval of the Notice of Election for the May 6, 2017 General and Special Election for the Town. (City Secretary)  
**Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the Notice of Election for the May 6, 2017 General and Special Election for the Town, Council Member Reyes seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**K. ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE AGREEMENT** – To approve an agreement with the City of Port Isabel and the Town of Laguna Vista for animal control services. (City Manager)  
**Council Member Davalos made a motion to table the Animal Control Service Agreement agenda item, to allow the City Manager to review certain sections of the agreement, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**L. C.D.C NEWCOMERS WELCOME PACKET FUNDING** – Consideration and possible action for funding of packets for new citizens in Town. (City Manager)  
**Mayor Houston made a motion to approve the Community Development Corporation Newcomers Welcome Packet funding for \$1,000, Council Member Reyes seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**M. BEACH BLVD STREET IMPROVEMENTS** – Consideration and action to fund the street improvements to Beach Blvd and to approve the contract for engineering services. (City Manager)

**Council Member Carter made a motion to approve the Beach Blvd street improvements for \$294,474, Council Member Smith seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**N. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- i. 2017 Great Texas Warrant Round Up

**Rolando Vela informed the Council that we are participating in the Texas Warrant Round Up. The Town has 4,319 outstanding warrants that total \$1.4 million owed to the Town.**

- ii. Laguna Vista CARES “About Its Pets”

**Rolando Vela stated that the purpose of the Laguna Vista CARES about Its Pets campaign is to educate people about being responsible pet owners. We are working to get banners, bumper stickers and have pictures with your pet taken. Dr. Monroe, Veterinarian from Port Isabel, is a resident of Laguna Vista and has agreed to help us with this project. We are hoping that people will get the microchip or collar ID for their pets.**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:40 pm, Council Member Reyes seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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Susie Houston, Mayor

Attest:

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Alma Deckard, City Secretary